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TAGS: EGEN, UR

SUBJ: MORE AND BETTER FROM SOVIET ECONOMY FOR 1976

REF: 76 MOSCOW 0165; 75 MOSCOW 0431

1. SUMMARY. JAN 22 PRAVDA CARRIES THREE-COLUMN FRONT PAGE DECREE BY CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, TRADE UNION AND KOMSOMOL HEADQUARTERS CALLING FOR INCREASE IN PRODUCTIVITY AND QUALITY TOGETHER WITH FULFILLMENT OF 1976 PLAN GOALS. DECREE HERALDS BEGINNING OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANNUAL "SOCIALIST" COMPETITION FOR 1976. END SUMMARY.

2. SETTING AS SLOGAN, "TO INCREASE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRODUCTION AND QUALITY OF WORK IN NAME OF ECONOMIC AND PUBLIC WELFARE," DECREE CALLS FOR (1) MAINTENANCE OF HIGH LEVEL OF PRODUCTION GROWTH FROM STEPPED-UP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, (2) MORE EFFICIENT UTILIZATION OF CAPITAL FUNDS AND EQUIPMENT, (3) STRENGTHENING OF ECONOMY MEASURES, (4) HEIGHTENED EFFICIENCY OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND QUICKER APPLICATION TO INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, (5) INCREASES IN OUTPUT OF HIGH QUALITY GOODS FROM ALL SECTORS, (6) GENERAL GROWTH IN OUTPUT OF GRAIN, MEAT, MILK, COTTON, SUGAR BEETS, VEGETABLES, POTATOES AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND LIVESTOCK, (7) CURTAILING CONSTRUCTION PERIODS AND COSTS, (8) IMPROVEMENT IN TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION SERVICES, AND (9) MORE AND BETTER SERVICE OF ALL KINDS.

3. INCENTIVES TO SPUR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THESE GOALS INCLUDE THE CUSTOMARY "SOCIALIST COMPETITION" TOGETHER WITH CERTIFICATES, CASH PRIZES, TROPHIES AS WELL AS A NEW MEDAL, "VICTOR OF SOCIALIST COMPETITION," AND 130,000 CUT-RATE TOURIST TRIPS IN USSR AND "BROTHERLY SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

4. COMMENT: ACCOMPANIED BY A LONG SECOND ARTICLE ON INTERIOR PAGES WHICH SETS FORTH SHINING EXAMPLES FOR RIGHT-MINDED WORKERS TO EMULATE, THIS YEAR'S CALL FOR COMPETITION REPEATS CUSTOMARY ADMONITIONS IN FAMILIAR RHETORIC BUT SOMEWHAT MORE GRANDIOSE FORMAT THAN USUAL. ARTICLE IS NOTABLE FOR COMPREHENSIVE AND SUCCINCT LISTING OF CURRENT SHORTCOMINGS IN SOVIET ECONOMY. HOWEVER, RELIANCE ON STANDARD INCENTIVES FOR IMPROVEMENT, REWARDS WHICH NOT PROVEN EFFECTIVE IN PAST, GIVES ABUNDANT GROUND FOR SCEPTICISM THAT THIS YEAR'S CAMPAIGN WILL PROVE DEMONSTRABLY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN LAST YEAR'S.
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